

**COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (If only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**Utilization of water-soluble zirconium compounds as drying accelerators in aqueous coating agents**

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

☒ was filed on September 21, 2000, as International Patent Application PCT/EP00/09246

and including all the amendments through the date hereof.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Application(s) for which Priority Is Claimed:**

Federal Republic of Germany, 199 45 626.7, of September 23, 1999

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s), respectively and individually, as my attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:



**CUSTOMER NUMBER 25,255**

**25255**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Please address all communications to Clarant Corporation, Industrial Property Department, 4331 Chesapeake Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216, telephone number 704/395-6712, facsimile number 704/395-6727.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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17.04.02

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